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reason, I strongly urge the body to support LB 1436. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Aguilar. Senator Vrtiska, on the committee amendments.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. This is a bill that has a lot of sides to it, obviously. We're hearing them. One of the questions I keep asking myself and the members of this body is, where were they when LB 505 was out here? To me, this would have been an adequate way to do the thing that we're doing. But since there seemed to be a sense that they didn't want to do this, I feel obligated to support this legislation, even...even with the objections that Senator Jensen and I'm sure Senator Byars are going to bring forth in this discussion. I had a bunch a...quite a bunch of kids in my office a couple weeks ago when all these kids were around that were against smoking, and this was some of the things we talked about. They talked about the ability to find ways to help them to convince their classmates and schoolmates to not smoke, these kids who are very sincere about the effects of tobacco on youth, and drugs. And I think that somehow we need to show some encouragement. I'm not sure how to go about this, but this seemed to be a direction we ought to go. And we keep talk...Senator Jensen talks about putting it off a year. How many kids are going to become addicted during that year? I don't know, but it really bothers me because I understand that it should be...we shouldn't, as indicated, be robbing money out of one fund to do...out of one fund to do something else but, at the same time, what do we do? What do we do? I think there's going to be some amendments maybe to help this cause and I hope that they will be...they will be included in this bill. So I'm going to continue to support this at this time because I look at how important it is to somehow work on the cause of the effects of tobacco and, at the same time, help some of these kids in their endeavors to get an education. With that, thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Thompson, on the committee amendments to LB 1436.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the body. I'm also rising to speak on the whole concept, not